



The March of Dimes is a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community and other volunteers affiliated with 51 chapters representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. For 75 years, the March of Dimes has worked to improve maternal and child health through activities like funding research and field trials for the eradication of polio, promoting newborn screening, and educating medical professionals and the public about best practices for healthy pregnancy.

COMMUNITY GRANTS: In 2012, Michigan received \$265,310 in March of Dimes Community Grants: 29 grants were awarded to help improve the health of women and infants in the state. Below are highlights:

- **The Corner Health Center** a \$25,000 grant to provide women ages 12 through 21 with personal empowerment skills that focus on preconception health through the development of an individual, holistic, educational care plan with a focus on increasing preconception health knowledge.
- **Michigan Department of Community Health** a \$77,980 grant to facilitate a telemedicine initiative that connects at-risk pregnant women in isolated, rural, Northern Lower Peninsula Michigan with obstetric specialists. These funds also will build a structure of relationships and processes linking current institutions in southeast Michigan to develop a regional perinatal coordinated system of care.

PROGRAMS IN MICHIGAN

NICU Family Support®: Provides information, support and comfort to families whose infants are treated in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait®: An initiative with a focus on "preventable" late preterm births by targeting early labor inductions and elective cesarean sections before 39 weeks.

Becoming a Mom / Comenzando bien: A prenatal curriculum in a supportive group setting for pregnant women that is offered in both English and Spanish. The women learn about having a healthy pregnancy and receive culturally relevant social support.

RESEARCH GRANTS: In 2012, Michigan received \$1,707,835 in March of Dimes Research Grants : 10 grants were awarded to help improve the health of women and infants in the state. Below are highlights:

- **Preventing Pancreatic Beta Cell Failure Caused by Misfolded Proinsulin in Neonatal Diabetes (University of Michigan):** to develop new strategies to prevent neonatal diabetes in infants with insulin gene mutations. Babies with neonatal diabetes produce some normal and some abnormal insulin, and interaction between the two forms of insulin appears to lead to destruction of insulin-producing beta cells of the pancreas.
- **Analysis of Hyphal Growth in the Opportunistic Human Fungal Pathogen *C. albicans* (University of Michigan):** to identify interacting genes and cell-to-cell signaling pathways which allow fungal cells to change from harmless one-celled organisms to disease-causing multicellular forms. Up to 7 percent of low birthweight babies develop a widespread infection with *c. albicans*, and about half of severely infected babies die.

PRETERM BIRTH: Michigan earned a "C" on the 2012 March of Dimes Preterm Birth Report Card

12 percent of births in Michigan were preterm, falling short of the March of Dimes 2020 goal of 9.6 percent.

NEWBORN SCREENING: Michigan mandates screens for 54 treatable conditions

Newborn screening tests newborns for certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and functional conditions that are not otherwise apparent at birth. If diagnosed early, many of these conditions can be successfully managed.

In an Average Week in Michigan

2,203 infants are born	208 infants are born to teen mothers (ages 15-19)	718 infants delivered by cesarean section	269 infants are born preterm	185 infants are born low birthweight	17 infants die before their first birthday
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Support Investing in Infant Mortality Prevention

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Michigan's infant mortality rate is a major public health issue as **892 babies will die before their first birthday.**

The Michigan Department of Community Health, along with stakeholders such as the March of Dimes, created an Infant Mortality Reduction Plan. The plan includes eight evidence based strategies that can positively affect our infant deaths. **These strategies are proven to provide positive results, but they need to be supported and funded by state government.**



The leading cause of infant death in the first month of life is **premature birth.**

Babies born before 39 to 40 weeks have much higher incidence of health problems like cerebral palsy, autism, asthma and blindness. In 2012, 11.8% of Michigan's babies were born preterm. Though we have made progress with recent wins such as expanding Medicaid to cover some 159,000 women of childbearing age that were not previously covered and adding our 54th newborn screening, we have much work to be done on our Infant Mortality Reduction Plan. **Please support funding for infant mortality programs in Michigan.**

For additional information please contact:

March of Dimes Michigan Chapter

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Johanna Hubble

A healthy pregnancy with no known cause for premature birth. Though Johanna was born too soon, she is a healthy vibrant 5 year old because of March of Dimes life-saving research.



Born at 32 weeks

8 weeks premature



4 lbs 4 oz

Johanna Enjoys:
Lalaloopsy
Puppies
Macaroni & Cheese
Picking Flowers
And her Daddy

